



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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*William D. Gore, Sheriff*

May 22, 2019

Samuel Sinyangwe  
C/O MuckRock News  
Dept HR 71053  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Email: 71053-50857917@requests.muckrock.com

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr. Sinyangwe:

This letter is response to your CPRA request dated March 27, 2019. Although we initially denied your request, on April 22, we notified you by email that we had re-considered your request, and that we would produce a database that tracked Use of Force incidents that contained most of the data fields that were sought in your request.

As I indicated to you previously, the data contained in the database was derived from Use of Force incident reports. (Separate from arrest or deputy reports that provide a more general report of the incident). Prior to 2016, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department required one such Use of Force incident report to be completed per use of force incident. Beginning in 2016, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department changed its reporting requirements such that every sworn employee involved in the use of force incident was required to complete a use of force incident report. As a result, one use of force incident may be reported multiple times in the database.

We are also aware that this database does not contain information pertaining to all Deputy-involved shootings in this time period. Not all Deputy-involved shootings have resulted in Use of Force incident reports being generated.

Additionally, we are aware that, particularly with respect to dates of birth, there are many obvious errors in the database.

For these reasons, the database may not be helpful in determining the "demographic" information for the Sheriff's Department's use of force incidents from 2013 forward. Nor should the number of entries be considered the number of force incidents, for the reasons described herein. In short, this database should not be relied upon for attempting to ascertain correct use of force figures from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department compiles Use of Force statistics annually and makes the available to the public. The reports from the last three years are located on the Sheriff's Department's web site. ([www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net)). We encourage anyone looking to report or analyze our Use of Force information to rely on our annual reports, which have been carefully compiled and screened for accuracy. The same cannot be said for the information that you have sought.

Finally, I will point out to you that one of the data fields you have requested, "mental illness/disability status of the people force was used on", is not a field that we track. In other words, we do not, in compiling Use of Force data, attempt to ascertain information that would reveal the mental health or disability status of the person whom force was used upon. We do require our deputies, in reporting uses of force, to indicate whether they observed what appeared to them to be mental impairment. We have not included this information in the database that we have produced in response to this request because we understood your request to be concerned with the number of individuals who have been diagnosed or determined by some other process to have a mental illness or mental disability. However, if you were seeking the impressions of the deputies, we will re-format the database to include that data field.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. GORE, Sheriff

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Toyen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sanford A. Toyen, Legal Advisor  
Office of the Sheriff – Legal Affairs Unit